

name of *S. auriculæfolia*. The plant so named in his 'Cat. des Pl. des Pyrénées' is referred by all the French botanists to the *S. lychnidifolia* (Gir.); but surely Mr. Bentham would not combine our plants with it! That would be a union more remarkable even than many of the other conjunctions of species which he expects us to accept upon his authority alone.

**XLIV.—On a Species of *Ostrea* taken from the copper sheathing on the bottom of a vessel in the Liverpool Graving Docks.** By T. C. ARCHER, Professor of Botany in Queen's College, Liverpool.

THE great rarity of the occurrence of bivalve shells growing upon the bottoms of ships is well known to those who are engaged in the repairs of vessels; two such instances, however, have occurred in this port, within a few weeks of each other. In the first case, which did not fall under my own notice, the copper sheathing of a vessel from Bombay was found to have attached to it a considerable number of full-grown shells of a species closely allied to *Ostrea edulis*. In the second instance, I happened to pass one of our graving docks in which some vessels were undergoing repairs, and was much struck with the immense number of oyster-shells adhering to the bottom of one of them. Upon descending for the purpose of a closer inspection, I found one or two old ship-carpenters examining them with great curiosity; and they informed me that, although they had worked in the Graving Docks from their boyhood, they had never seen oysters on a ship's bottom before. I removed a few of the shells, which thickly covered the greater part of the copper, being thickest near the keel, and took them away for examination. On my return home, I saw at once that it was a species with which I was not familiar, and upon referring to the beautiful and extensive collection in the Liverpool Royal Institution, I found no specimen of the species there; nor have I been able by reference to local and distant friends to ascertain its name. I therefore hastened to secure a considerable number of specimens for distribution—and was only just in time, for they were being rapidly removed and carted away: upwards of a ton and a half were supposed to have been taken from the ship's bottom.

Deeply imbedded in the interstices of the clumps of oysters, I discovered some small shells attached by a byssus; these are a species of *Perna*, which Mr. S. P. Woodward obligingly informs me is known to him as a South Sea species. This is of value, as indicating the probable habitat of the *Ostrea*, otherwise a difficult matter, for very little is known of the antecedents of the vessel, she having been taken as a prize during the Russian war,

and having since then belonged to several owners. I have, however, learned that one of her latest voyages was to Matamoras.

Every shell was not only empty, but was perfectly cleaned out; from which I infer that, after the vessel came into the colder waters of the temperate zone, the oysters died, and, their shells consequently opening, they were speedily devoured by Crustaceans and other carnivorous creatures. Owing to this circumstance, by far the larger proportion of the oysters wanted their upper valves, which had dropped off, the hinge not being able to sustain the weight of the valve, which, from the oysters' position on the ship, would hang downwards.

*Description of the Shell.*—Attached by its lower valve, which varies in shape according to the extent of the attachment: when only slightly adherent, it is very concave. The upper valve flat, or slightly concave, and foliaceous. In some specimens there are well-marked plaits on the outer surface. The nacreous lining of the upper valve is white; that of the lower one is of a deep rich copper-brown colour in the middle, with a margin of white. The hinge toothless, with a laminated subnacreous structure.

I send you herewith specimens; and if you think that they possess any value, I shall be obliged by your making known to your readers that, to the extent of my stock, I shall be glad to give them to public museums and important private collections:

XLV.—On some New Genera and Species of Mollusca from Japan. BY ARTHUR ADAMS, F.L.S., &c.

[Continued from p. 303.]

Genus SYRNOLA, A. Adams.

Testa subulata, recta, vitrea, polita; anfractibus planis; suturis impressis. Apertura oblonga; labio in medio plica obliqua instructo; labro simplici, acuto.

This genus bears the same relation to *Obeliscus* that *Chrysallida* docs to *Pyramidella*, and will include all the slender species of the former group with a single plait on the columella. It differs from *Monoptygma* in being vitreous and polished, and from *Odostomia* in texture and its subulate or aciculate form.

*Syrnola gracillima*, A. Adams.

S. testa subulata, alba, vitrea, subopaca; anfractibus novem, lævibus, planulatis, suturis valde impressis, anfractu ultimo linea rufo-fusca angusta circumcincto, antice rotundato; labio antice expanso et reflexo, in medio plica obliqua valida instructo; labro intus subincrassato.

*Hab.* Straits of Korea; 63 fathoms.